



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:  
**Robie, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 3732

Serial No.: 10/015,365

Examiner: **Melson, Candice C.**

Filing Date: **December 13, 2001**

Atty Dkt.: **Implex-18**

For: **Instrument and System for  
Preparing the Disc Space  
Between Two Vertebral Bodies**

Date: **April 22, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

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**APR 29 2004**  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the final Office action of February 10, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on May 10, 2004, applicants submit this response.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and reconsideration of the amended claims and their allowance in view of the remarks.